

New York Tribune.

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Not Much Bismarckian "Blood and Iron" in the Bethmann-Hollweg Statement.

The appeal to American opinion made yesterday by the German Imperial Chancellor gives us ample excuse for saying once more that when Prince Bismarck died he left no successors. Can any one imagine Bismarck putting forth so puny and fainthearted an apology for German policy as that given to the world by Bethmann-Hollweg?

Bismarck was a statesman of extraordinary courage and foresight. His methods were ruthless. What he could not bend he broke. But he never dodged responsibility for what he did. He had no illusions about his own purposes; in discussing them he was often frank to the point of cynicism.

He knew that Prussia's greatness was built upon wars of conquest. He believed in military force as the real basis of empire. Therefore, he preached the doctrine of "blood and iron," and stood ready to use the sword whenever necessary to make larger and surer that "place in the sun" which Prussia, and later Germany, coveted. That a state founded on militarism and inspired by militarism should not be free to use its force at any time without apologies to the rest of the world was something beyond the dreams of his philosophy.

Can any one imagine Bismarck trying to palm off on the world as an explanation of the cause of the present European war that "it is a life and death struggle between the Germans and the Muscovite races of Russia"? That academic futility would not have interested him. He had no prejudices against the Slavs, and was just as willing to tie Germany up in an alliance with Russia, a pure Slav state, as with Austria-Hungary, a partly Slav state. He would have known much better than to make the claim that Germany was going to the rescue of German culture when it decided to back up the demands made upon Serbia by Austria-Hungary, whose population is, roughly speaking, one-fifth German, two-fifths Slav and four-fifths (including the Slavs) non-German. That sort of thing ought to be left to the embattled university professors who are trying to prove that in making war on France, Belgium and Great Britain Germany is championing the civilization of Western Europe against the Cossacks.

The detail in Germany's policy which has most outraged the opinion of the world is the unwarranted attack made on the neutralized state of Belgium. Belgium was not in an alliance with the Muscovites. Its permanent neutrality and independence were guaranteed by a treaty signed by the leading European powers, Prussia itself being a signatory. That treaty obligation Germany violated simply because it was convenient to use Belgian territory as a basis for military operations. That was reducing war to the level of national brigandage.

Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg thinks that it is possible to palliate this inexcusable attack on a friendly nation whose security was specifically guaranteed by Prussia by saying that, Great Britain having refused to permit the German fleet to attack the northern coast of France, there was no other way to get at France except through Belgium. But what about the Franco-German border from Longwy to Belfort? The German armies could have operated there without forcing Belgium into the arms of France and possibly without compelling Great Britain to go actively to the support of her associates in the Triple Entente.

The Chancellor intimates that only an unfortunate complication drove Germany to the necessity of seizing Belgium. But the plans of the Berlin War Office undoubtedly provided long in advance for an invasion of Belgium, if France were to be attacked, and made that provision with the full knowledge that such a course would draw a declaration of war from Great Britain. Why say, then: "It is with a heavy heart that we see England ranged among our opponents, notwithstanding the blood relationship and close relationship in spiritual and cultural world between the two countries?"

France is the real enemy at whom Germany is striking, and with the hope of winning an early and decisive victory on French soil she was willing to take all the risks involved in war with Great Britain as well as with Belgium.

We do not think that Bismarck would have blinked the "fundamental" facts. He was never afraid to face the truth, pleasant or unpleasant. If he had said anything in defence of Germany's policy he would have been entirely frank. He would have said that in the last two or three years Germany had begun to find her status as a dominant factor in European concerns challenged. Diplomatic mistakes had isolated her, while France, always growing richer and stronger, had become a partner in a Triple Entente whose power

overshadowed the power of the crumbling Triple Alliance. Germany's "place in the sun" was being hedged in, and it was time to appeal once more to methods of "blood and iron" to restore the nation's waning prestige.

Moreover, in our opinion, Bismarck would not have attempted to throw on other shoulders responsibility for the violation of Belgium's neutrality. A "blood and iron" programme covers all such details. Only the sword could restore Germany's impaired status, and when the sword was drawn all treaties became inoperative. That would have been a candid explanation to the world of Germany's action, and one immensely more convincing than are the feeble subterfuges which Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg has just put forward.

The Davis Cup Returns to Australia.

It has been a privilege to see the tennis of Messrs. Brookes and Wilding, and there is no country to which we can see the Davis Cup depart with more cheerfulness than to Australia. The Australians had the best balanced team and thoroughly deserved to win.

Our American failure was due to the unfortunate fact that we presented a one-man team. The name of McLoughlin must now unquestionably be ranked first among the tennis players of the world. To beat Brookes in straight sets and Wilding with the loss of but one set, all in three days, is a feat without parallel. Fortunately, too, he met Brookes when the latter was at his freshest and best. So no explanations are possible. In the marvellous Californian, a trifle restrained of wrist and much developed in strokes since his early days, America unquestionably has a new master to rank with the greatest figures of the past.

The present is certainly no time for recriminations over the loss of the cup—narrow as was the margin by which it was lost. Let us rather be thankful for the brilliant youngsters who are treading on McLoughlin's heels and who make the promise for the future return of the trophy bright with hope.

A Discourager of Kidnapping.

Prison terms as severe as those to which Judge Crain sentenced three Italians convicted of kidnapping the son of a Bleeker st. grocer ought to be a potent deterrent of such industry in future. The leader was sentenced to from 25 to 50 years in Sing Sing—the maximum penalty for the crime. His lieutenant received from 20 to 30 years, while a subordinate in the gang will have to spend from 12½ to 25 years behind the bars.

There was no reason for anything but the utmost severity in this case. The convicted men were well-to-do members of the Italian community, intelligent enough to make a good, honest living. They chose the crooked road because it promised to lead to "easy money." Their crime was a sordid, despicable one which, like Black Hand bomb throwing and other varieties of extortion, has grown rank in the foreign colony. Knowledge that it will lead to jail instead of wealth is bound to stop its spread.

The Near Side Stop.

Mayor Mitchell having signed the near side stop ordinance, the streetcar companies and the travelling public will have to readjust their method of operations after September 1. The transit lines are in favor of this departure. They believe it will mean easier operation of cars, a somewhat shorter running time between termini and greater safety for passengers and pedestrians, because the cars will cross the transverse streets at a slow starting speed rather than with the speed and momentum of a block's run.

Under the new order of things there will be at least uniformity of stopping places for cars—an improvement over the conditions under which a car, having stopped at the near side of some fire or hospital street, whizzed past would-be passengers waiting on the far side because the motorist didn't choose to stop twice at one street. There will be disadvantages, though, notably in boarding of cars in winter through mud and slush at points where there is no street crossing—and this is a disadvantage so serious that some cities have striven to meet it by building special "stations" or "isles of safety" where the travellers may stand to wait for their cars.

There is bound to be much temporary confusion because of the change. This can be lessened by courtesy and consideration on the part of the railway employees—qualities unfortunately not always overabundant. A hearty co-operation with the public until travellers get accustomed to the new stops will probably save the street railroads the kind of condemnation which forced the abandonment of the near side stop several years ago.

Let Uncle Sam Be an Underwriter.

With the Atlantic steamship lanes open again to all steamships not flying the German or Austrian flags and the sailing from this port yesterday of nine liners, the only obstacle remaining to at least a partial resumption of our foreign commerce is the lack of cargo insurance.

The proposition has been made and is being seriously considered in Washington of constituting the government a partner with the maritime insurance companies in the assuming of war risks. It has the support of a representative body of business men and seems sensible. If Congress moves in this matter with the same dispatch with which it took up the free ship registry problem the country should feel that it is on the high road to the enjoyment of all the commercial advantages offered it by a Europe in arms.

The Problem of Our Foreign Debt.

The outpouring of gold to Europe in redemption of American securities before the closing of the Stock Exchange, coupled with the annual westward flow of money for crop moving purposes, has reduced the gold reserves of the New York banks below the legal limit. No more can be withdrawn just now unless the legal limit is set aside. And yet it is estimated we have maturing in the next few months obligations abroad amounting to \$130,000,000 to be paid in gold.

Ordinarily, of course, we should be offsetting this debt with credits due to shipments of grain and cotton and other exports. But with prohibitive insurance rates and an almost complete lack of tonnage these shipments are not being made, so the balance stands intact against us. And to bring matters to a head, the Bank of England has completed arrangements to receive in payment of these obligations as they mature deposits of gold in Ottawa.

It seems a thousand pities that the new banking and currency law should not have gone into full

effect before the cataclysm in Europe brought about such a situation, for the provisions of this law specifically permit the suspension of reserve requirements to meet just such a condition. And furthermore, through a large reduction in reserve required from individual banks, the institution of the new régime would have released some hundreds of millions of dollars which might now be applied to wiping out this foreign debt.

In the absence of this remedy, however, several prominent members of the Chamber of Commerce have proposed that an amendment to the national bank act be passed permitting the banks to substitute banknotes for part of the "lawful money" now required as reserve. If all banknotes outstanding were now secured, as of old, by an equal amount of United States bonds, the objections to such a plan would be by no means so emphatically clear. It would simply amount to an inclusion of these bonds in the reserve, thereby substituting the credit of the United States for the gold they displaced. But Congress has recently authorized, under the Aldrich-Vreeland act, the issue of over a billion of banknotes against the general assets of national banks; these new notes are indistinguishable from the others. To permit them to be held as reserve would be allowing the banks to pit one liability against another, a practice hopelessly unsound in principle and fraught with great danger to our financial fabric.

Another proposal, that Congress, in case careful investigation shows the situation justifies it, permit the Federal Reserve Board to suspend present reserve requirements in anticipation of the full operation of the new banking and currency law, seems a more direct and sensible remedy, particularly as it is expected that the new régime will have taken over our banking system by the middle of next month.

We agree with Mr. Jacob Schiff that we in this country should make every effort to pay our honest debts in this extraordinary crisis. But we mustn't become panicky and resort to doubtful expedients when there is no dearth of gold in the country and a calm view of the situation will suggest safe methods of getting hold of it.

THE TALK OF THE DAY

GLAD PROSPECT.

Some day with philanthropic care
We'll take our customs everywhere
And teach the nations to be good
And always do the things they should.
We'll tell them, in explicit terms,
How to exterminate the germs.
We will persuade them to be wise
And boil their drinks and slay the flies—
And after that they'll take a chance,
We'll teach them all the tango dance.
We'll teach them to wear clinging clothes
While they attempt the Venus pose.
From women they will hear a lot
Who want to vote or who do not.
They'll talk in scientific phrase
On subjects that must oft amaze.
Since nothing is considered rough
If words you use are long enough.
Oh, Nations! You will be surprised
When once we get you civilized.
—Washington Star.

In ancient days when a great war was pending there was some mystical sign of it in the heavens. This one in Europe seems to have been sprung too suddenly for omens in the sky. Not a flaming sword, not a word in letters of fire, and as for comets, twenty or thirty are to be seen through telescopes, but not one greets the naked eye of the superstitious. Omens are too slow for our hustling "civilization."—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Stranded Americans can now appreciate the beauties of that good old saw, "Just like getting money from home!"—Washington Post.

ROMANCE OF A BALL PLAYER.

"You've made a hit with me," he said—
"You've got the curves and you've got the speed;
Come, jump to me and be my feed,
And sign me up to be your feed."
He stuck a fast one round her neck,
The other, waist-high, sailed across,
And then, a startled, blighted wreck,
He heard her edge in with this toss:

"Six on the squeeze—that's not my stuff—
Play off—don't hug the base so tight;
I'm wise to this Three Hundred bluff
From guys that bat around all night."
"Here comes the hit and run," she cried;
Her old man blew in off the street;
The player sprinted with a slide,
But he was thrown out twenty feet.
—Grantland Rice, in Collier's.

War interrupts trade and causes inconvenience in many surprising ways. Fashionable women, for example, have been complaining because there is no immediate prospect of getting any news of the latest Parisian styles. The American women, however, should congratulate themselves that they are not to be called upon to follow the example of their sisters across the ocean this winter, for the prevailing fashion there for many months to come, both in palace and in cottage, will be mourning.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Among our prominent first-pagers who do not mind being shoved out of their regular place in the paper since the former New Haven directors—Ohio State Journal.

Callor—Very, very sad case—what was the cause of such a mental breakdown?
Keeper—He wrote a hundred good scenarios for the moving picture companies and they finally accepted one. The shock was so great that he had a mental collapse.—New York Sun.

"I was outspoken in my sentiments at the club this afternoon," said Mrs. Garolous to her husband the other evening. With a look of astonishment he replied: "I can't believe it, my dear. Who outspoke you?"—National Monthly.

"How many people are there here, Pat?" queried the Englishman of an Irishman in Montreal. "Oh, about a hundred thousand." "Why, I thought there must be half a million." "Well," said Pat, "there is—if you count the Frinch."—Canadian Courier.

NEW YORK FROM THE SUBURBS.

The revenues of the City of New York for the past six months have been \$115,000,000. They must have a system of chloroforming the New York taxpayers before the collectors take the money. Otherwise, we can't understand how a revolution has been averted.—Houston Post.

New York bankers urged Secretary McAdoo to place at least \$10,000,000 in New York to take care of foreign demands for gold, incident to the unloading of stocks and other securities by frightened European investors. The full faith and credit of the country must be pledged to protect the stock gamblers. They are the boys who damn the administration as the sum of all villainies one day and, with hat in hand, go down on their knees to it the next!—Nashville Tennessean.

There is a rift in the clouds. New York reports a slight decline in the price of diamonds.—Houston Post.

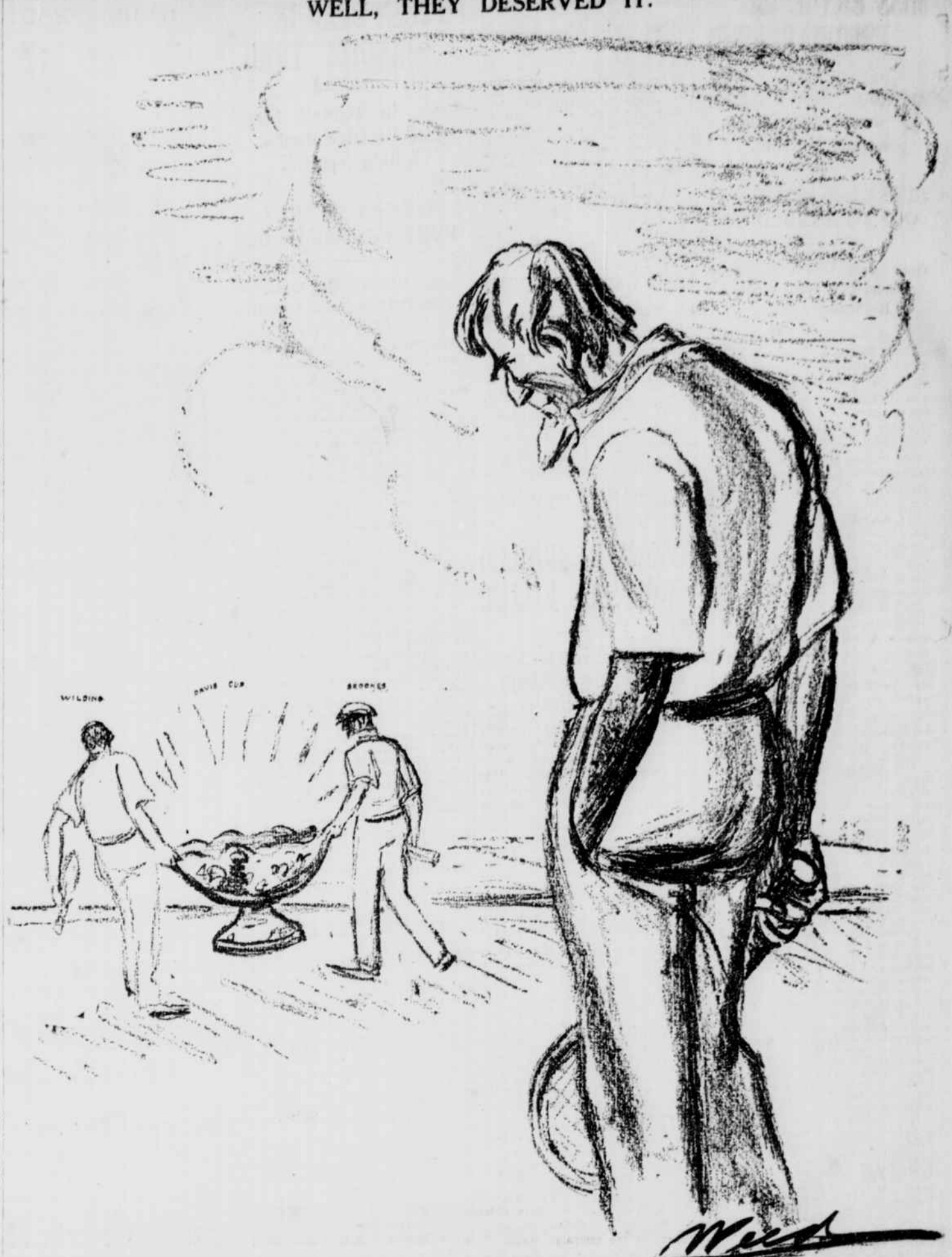
Lots of New Yorkers will never get over their astonishment at the country's moving along smoothly while the Stock Exchange closed.—Rockford (Ill.) Republic.

The bathing suit makers in New York have gone on strike. Maybe because the authorities put the ban on union suits.—Detroit Free Press.

The report that 15,000 residents of New York City have a combined annual income of a billion dollars is surprising to people who did not know how many newspaper men there are in New York.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

"Bob" Jones, an evangelist who says that "New York is dancing on the brink of hell," has been endorsed by "Billy" Sunday, which is a recommendation or otherwise, just as you look at it.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

New York City will start an extensive campaign of public health education. New York is a wicked and corrupt old place, but in a number of important particulars it has set the lead over the rest of the country.—Raleigh News and Observer.



THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

PRO-GERMAN COMPLAINTS

Many of Them Considered "Deserters" in Fatherland.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: Your paper and others are daily publishing protests from German so-called deserters, and with only initials rabidly protesting against the war news items and editorials, and threatening all sorts of dire reprisals.

I have been for years a great admirer of the German nation and people and the German Kaiser, both as War Lord and as commercial leader propagandist, and I know and believe that the Germans are equal to the best of our American citizens; but what does the present pro-German uproar mean?

Fully 70 per cent of native Germans came to this country to escape military service; at least, they never performed their military service, and under German law they are deserters. By what mental process do these German-Americans uphold the German Kaiser, government and people in this war, when the Kaiser's military military service, and under German law they are deserters. By what mental process do these German-Americans uphold the German Kaiser, government and people in this war, when the Kaiser's military military service, and under German law they are deserters.

Callor—Very, very sad case—what was the cause of such a mental breakdown?
Keeper—He wrote a hundred good scenarios for the moving picture companies and they finally accepted one. The shock was so great that he had a mental collapse.—New York Sun.

WHEN WOMEN GET THE VOTE

A Calm View of What They May Expect to Accomplish.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: In a letter signed "M. S." and dated August 13 the statement is made: "When women get the vote throughout the world have the ballot there will be no more wars." Such extravagant and ridiculous assertions do more harm to the suffrage cause than any number of anti arguments.

When women get the vote they will neither change human nature nor run the entire political situation. They will accomplish many reforms and make in the main careful, reliable citizens, ready to help in such ways as they can and able and willing to bear their share of the weal and woe that falls upon the heads of both males and females.

A SANE SUFFRAGIST.
New York, Aug. 14, 1914.

ITALY TRUE TO HER ALLIES

It Was They Who Broke Their Treaty with Her.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: The cartoon in this morning's Tribune representing Italy in the act of breaking the treaty of the Triple Alliance is an offense against truth and justice.

The principal points of the treaty of the Triple Alliance are well known and read: (a) If a nation of the Triple Alliance declares war against another nation, the ally must first be notified. (b) The ally receives aid of the other ally only when it is a defensive war.

Now, Austria has declared war against Serbia to overcome a free

WHAT CAUSED THE WAR

The Annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina Blamed.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: The responsibility of plunging a whole continent in war and putting back for centuries the world's progress and civilization should be placed where it belongs.

The spark that kindled and set ablaze this great European conflagration was not the tragedy of Sarajevo, nor the activities of Pan-Serb societies, as the Austrian Ambassador, Dr. Dumba, recently asserted.

Austria tearing up most shamefully the Berlin Treaty and absolutely annexing Bosnia-Herzegovina against the protest of the whole Slav world was the first link in the chain of present fatal events.

This is not a war, as many would assert, of the Slav against the Teuton; it is a conflict of self-preservation on the part of the Slavs, who do not desire to be Germans or Austrians.

Napoleon III in 1870 declared war on Prussia, and the pretext was as trivial as the pretext of Franz Josef in declaring war against little Serbia. When the conflict ended it was the last of Napoleon. France became a great republic. History may repeat itself. The grave is already dug for Austria.

TOMO. SARGENTICH.
Rockaway Park, Aug. 13, 1914.

HE CALLS IT HUMOROUS

The Proposition to Forbid Canada's Sending Troops to Help Great Britain.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: It seems somewhat of an irony, in view of the many pathetic references in the Conning Tower to "the strain of trying to be funny," that you should have allowed a correspondent in your issue of August 14 to completely surpass the most brilliant witticisms of that welcome column!

Readers with the keenest sense of humor will delight in a letter in the People's Column of the date mentioned wherein a writer declares, with apparent seriousness, that as the United States (in her own interests only) would never allow Germany to attack Canada, it would be only just for this country to forbid Canada to proceed against Germany, to the assistance against that power of the empire of which Canada is a part.

But it is in the closing sentence of this immortal piece of humor that we have the most exquisite touch of all—an appeal to "British fair play," in support of the writer's contentions!

Surely the Conning Tower is in grave danger of being outclassed by the People's Column.

Justing apart, may the warmest admiration be expressed of your splendid journal and its beautiful and unequalled daily cartoons.

A TRIBUNE READER.
New York, Aug. 14, 1914.

A MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Plan to Erect One in Mrs. Wilson's Native Town.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: The citizens of Floyd County and Rome, Ga., are now beginning the erection of a new public hospital, the funds for which are being secured by public subscription. It has been suggested that as a memorial to Mrs. Wilson, who was buried here yesterday, the funds subscribed by the citizens of the county and town for the homecoming week in October, at which time Mrs. Wilson had promised to come home, be used for the erection of this hospital and that it be named the Ellen Axson Hospital.

The plan will probably be carried out, and others wishing to subscribe to such a memorial can take the matter up with Judge Junius F. Hilmyer, chairman of the board of trustees of the hospital, Rome, Ga.

HUGHES T. REYNOLDS.
Rome, Ga., Aug. 13, 1914.

THE CASE OF "BECKY" EDELSON

Victim of Mechanical Action of the Law, Thinks Hutchins Haggood.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: The case of "Becky" Edelson again brings up the eternal wondering question, Will the law ever learn to act otherwise than as a bit of unthinking machinery? It is certain that in the end every law and every government that cannot humanely adjust itself to our deeper conscience will have to go. Here is a young girl who certainly said or did nothing that was humanly wrong or even against our fundamental laws and Constitution. It was rather the judge who acted against the deeper law and against the Constitution. But because our machinery is such that it works mechanically we must, forsooth, proceed in a cold act the uttermost inhumanity.

"Becky" Edelson ably protests against an essentially unwise and unjust and really illegal judicial act, but once the machinery of punishment is under way, no amount of common sense or human feeling in the community can act efficiently in her behalf. The dignity of the judge prevents him from acting justly, and there is no other legal way to exert genuine justice.

It is the spectacle of such legalized outrages as this that breeds contempt for law and government in many minds and automatically leads to social difficulties which might easily be avoided by a wise and tolerant government.

HUTCHINS HAGGOOD.
Provincetown, Mass., Aug. 13, 1914.

ZABERN AFFAIR IN NEW YORK

Correspondent Suggests That Inquirer Conceive It in New Setting.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: As the Germans themselves are probably too busy with their own affairs at present to properly defend themselves against the recent outbreak of "Teutophobia," please allow me to reply to "H. S. B." in to-day's Tribune.

Let us be calm and suspend judgment on the warring elements. Who was responsible for the great thunderstorm we had a few days ago, causing needless loss of life and property? Yonkers! Let us remember that culturally the English, French and German nations are generally considered the flower of Western European civilization, probably with considerable measure of truth.

But they are all human. And so are we. Before throwing any stones at these foreigners, whose races are forerunners of a large part of our own population, let us see if there is any glass in our own house.

With the Zabern affair in mind, remembering that the German military are also policemen, carrying arms in time of peace and doing duty under irritating circumstances, of which we probably have not a full conception here, I suggest that "H. S. B." seek an answer to his questions by means of the following experiment:

Let him reproduce as nearly as possible the conditions existing at the time in Zabern.

MILITARISM IN ENGLAND

Dublin Shooting Compared with the Zabern Affair.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: In your issue of the 13th inst. your correspondent "H. S. B." recalls the Zabern affair and draws certain conclusions therefrom which will hardly stand analysis. This same Zabern affair has, it seems to me, been worked overtime by those who endeavor to find in every German act an indication of "brutality," "arrogance," and the like. Now, they do things differently in England when a hoodlum element jeers at and threatens the military, as was the case recently at Dublin, Ireland, some fifty or sixty of the defenceless mob are promptly laid low by the bullets of the military.

L. R. PATON.
Gloucester, Mass., Aug. 14, 1914.

Cannot our President protest against our Mayor, in behalf of the citizens from Germany and Russia, who form such a large proportion of our population, would be listened to everywhere. A POOR WOMAN.

New York, Aug. 14, 1914.

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